

IN THE CLAIMS

1-8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 72 or claim 73, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the HIV polymerase polypeptide is modified by deletions of coding regions encoding reverse transcriptase and integrase.

10. (previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising T-helper cell and CTL epitopes.

11-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) A recombinant expression system for use in a selected host cell, comprising the expression cassette of claim 68 or claim 69 and wherein said polynucleotide sequence is operably linked to control elements compatible with expression in the selected host cell.

25. (original) The recombinant expression system of claim 24, wherein said control elements are selected from the group consisting of a transcription promoter, a transcription enhancer element, a transcription termination signal, polyadenylation sequences, sequences for optimization of initiation of translation, and translation termination sequences.

26. (previously presented) The recombinant expression system of claim 25, wherein said transcription promoter is selected from the group consisting of CMV, CMV+intron A, SV40, RSV, HIV-Ltr, MMLV-Ltr, and metallothionein.

27. (previously presented) A cell comprising the expression cassette of claim 68 or claim 69 and wherein said polynucleotide sequence is operably linked to control elements compatible with expression in the selected cell.

28. (original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

29. (original) The cell of claim 28, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of BHK, VERO, HT1080, 293, RD, COS-7, and CHO cells.

30. (original) The cell of claim 29, wherein said cell is a CHO cell.

31. (original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is an insect cell.

32. (original) The cell of claim 31, wherein the cell is either *Trichoplusia ni* (Tn5) or Sf9 insect cells.

33. (original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell.

34. (original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a yeast cell.

35. (original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a plant cell.

36. (original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is an antigen presenting cell.

37. (currently amended) The cell of claim 36, wherein the antigen presenting cell is a lymphoid cell ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of macrophage, monocytes, dendritic cells, B-cells, T-cells, stem cells, and progenitor cells thereof.

38. (original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a primary cell.

39. (original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is an immortalized cell.

40. (original) The cell of claim 27, wherein the cell is a tumor-derived cell.

41. (canceled)

42. (previously presented) The composition of claim 74, further comprising a *Gag* polypeptide.

43. (previously presented) The composition of claim 74, further comprising an adjuvant.

44-48. (canceled)

49. (previously presented) A method of generating an immune response in a subject, comprising, introducing the composition of claim 74 into said subject under conditions that are compatible with expression of said expression cassette in said subject.

50. (original) The method of claim 49, wherein said expression cassette is introduced using a gene delivery vector.

51. (original) The method of claim 50, wherein the gene delivery vector is a non-viral vector.

52. (original) The method of claim 50, wherein said gene delivery vector is a viral vector.

53. (original) The method of claim 52, wherein said gene delivery vector is a Sindbis virus derived vector.

54. (original) The method of claim 52, wherein said gene delivery vector is a retroviral vector.

55. (original) The method of claim 52, wherein said gene delivery vector is a lentiviral vector.

56. (original) The method of claim 49, wherein said composition delivered using a particulate carrier.

57. (original) The method of claim 49, wherein said composition is coated on a gold or tungsten particle and said coated particle is delivered to said subject using a gene gun.

58. (original) The method of claim 49, wherein said composition is encapsulated in a liposome preparation.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said subject is a mammal.

60. (original) The method of claim 59, wherein said mammal is a human.

61-62. (canceled)

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, where the method further comprises administration of an HIV polypeptide.

64. (original) The method of claim 63, wherein administration of the polypeptide to the subject is carried out before introducing said expression cassette.

65. (original) The method of claim 63, wherein administration of the polypeptide to the subject is carried out concurrently with introducing said expression cassette.

66. (original) The method of claim 63, wherein administration of the polypeptide to the subject is carried out after introducing said expression cassette.

67. (canceled)

68. (previously presented) An expression cassette comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

69. (previously presented) An expression cassette comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

70. (original) The expression cassette of claim 68, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an HIV protease polypeptide.

71. (original) The expression cassette of claim 69, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an HIV protease polypeptide.

72. (original) The expression cassette of claim 68, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an HIV polymerase polypeptide.

73. (original) The expression cassette of claim 69, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an HIV polymerase polypeptide.

74. (previously presented) A composition for generating an immunological response in a mammal comprising the expression cassette of claim 68 or claim 69.

75. (previously presented) A method of generating an immune response in a mammal, the method comprising the step of intramuscularly administering the expression cassette of claim 68 or claim 69 to said mammal.